

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A movement vector generating apparatus generates a movement vector for a movement compensation by means of an inter-frame prediction, when encoding a preset image information including an image of a plurality of frames by using the movement compensation. The movement vector generating apparatus is provided with a plurality of generating devices each for generating the movement vector corresponding to a search range and a search accuracy between one frame and another frame, for each pixel block e.g., each macro block which is located within said one frame respectively in the image information and includes a plurality of pixels, the generating devices respectively using search ranges different from each other and search accuracies different from each other. The movement vector generating apparatus is also provided with a selecting device for selecting one of movement vectors generated by the generating devices, in accordance with characteristics of the image in said each pixel block, and then outputting the selected movement vector corresponding to said each pixel block.